(c) whether a large number of buses and autos are seen waiting in queue for gas near the petrol pumps from 6 to 12 hours on both sides of roads thus hampering the smooth flow of traffic; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The average compression capacity of IGL is 11.99 lakh kg. per day and the average daily sale for the month of March, 2003 has been 6.74 lakh kg. per day. IGL is able to fully meet the demand of CNG in Delhi.

(c) No, Sir. For small vehicles there is reportedly no queue outside CNG stations. For buses, however, there are some times small queues especially in the night, since night is lean business hours for buses, therefore, they prefer fueling at night and come in groups which results in some queues.

(d) At present, IGL has 107 CNG stations in operation by June, 2003, this would be increased to 111 to meet the increased demand of CNG.

CNG station on National Highways

4755. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to set up a chain of CNG stations along the National Highways to facilitate CNG motorists without switching to petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have also shown interest in setting up of CNG stations along NHs; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, CNG facilities would be gradually expanded in a phased manner to cover major cities. The National and State Highways falling under the distribution network may also be covered with CNG facilities.

(c) Government is not aware of any such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.